TYPHOON FRITZ (22W)

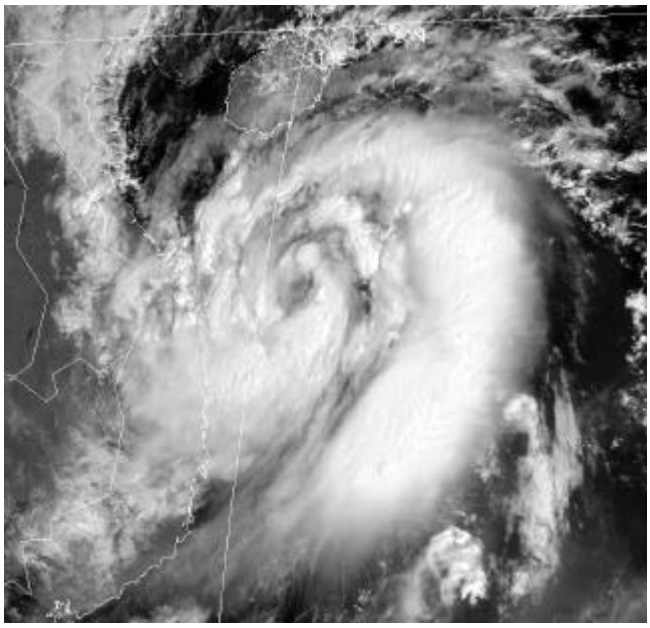
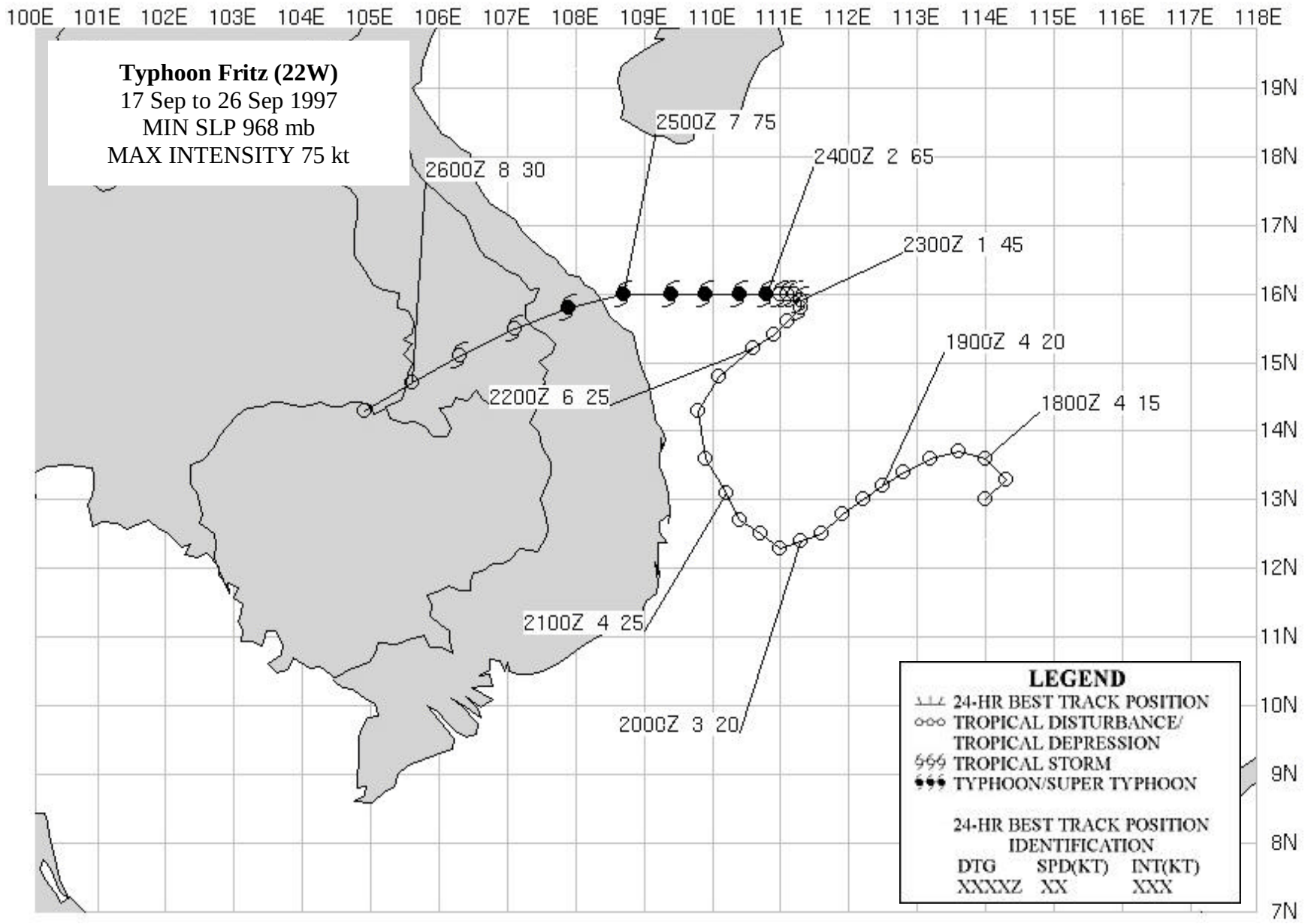


Figure 3-22-1 Tightly wrapped coils of deep convection surrounding a ragged ragged eye indicate that Fritz has become a typhoon (240133Z September visible GMS imagery).

The tropical disturbance that became Typhoon Fritz (22W) originated in the South China Sea (near the Philippine archipelago) within a long east-west cloud band associated with the monsoon trough. When first mentioned on the 19 September Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABPW), the deep convection associated with this disturbance had formed a distinct cloud cluster embedded in an otherwise unbroken monsoonal cloud band that stretched eastward along 10N from Southeast Asia to 170E. On 20 September, JTWC went directly to the first warning on Tropical Depression (TD) 22W. At 1800Z that day, satellite data indicated that the winds in the system had increased to 25 kt (13 m/sec). The cyclone was expected to intensify after it moved into open water away from the coast of Vietnam. As expected, TD 22W turned sharply to the right and began a slow track toward the north-northeast. The system failed to intensify until 22 September when it slowed southeast of Hainan Island, and organization of the deep convection began to improve. TD 22W was upgraded to Tropical Storm Fritz (22W) on the warning valid at 0000Z on the 23rd, based on satellite intensity estimates of 45 kt (23 m/sec). After becoming a tropical storm, Fritz turned toward the west and began to track toward the coast of Vietnam while continuing to intensify. Fritz reached typhoon intensity at 0000Z on the 24th (Figure 3-22-1). The intensity peaked at 75 kt (39 m/sec) at 0600Z on 24 September and held steady until the 25th when Fritz made landfall. Fritz steadily weakened after landfall, and the final warning was issued valid at 1800Z on 25 September, when it was expected that the system would dissipate over land within 24 hours. In Vietnam, at least 25 people were reported killed and dozens were missing. Most of the victims were gold prospectors buried in landslides triggered by flash flooding.


Typhoon Fritz (22W)
17 Sep to 26 Sep 1997
MIN SLP 968 mb
MAX INTENSITY 75 kt
2600Z 8 30
2500Z 7 75
2400Z 2 65
2300Z 1 45
2200Z 6 25
2100Z 4 25
2000Z 3 20
1900Z 4 20
1800Z 4 15
100E 101E 102E 103E 104E 105E 106E 107E 108E 109E 110E 111E 112E 113E 114E 115E 116E 117E 118E
19N 18N 17N 16N 15N 14N 13N 12N 11N 10N 9N 8N 7N
LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/ TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX